



**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

During your visit we ask that all visitors follow one basic rule—please have respect and consideration for other forest visitors and users. Vilas County ordinances 2, 16, 19 and 80-2A set forth the rules and regulations that apply on Vilas County lands. The County Recreation Officer and representatives from the Forestry, Recreation and Land Department are authorized to enforce these ordinances.

- ♦ **County Property:** Protect and respect all County property. Do not remove or destroy any natural growth or disturb any items installed for public use. The parks, recreation sites and facilities on the Forest are open from sunrise to sunset except when specific times are posted.
- ♦ **Litter:** Please take all refuse with you when you leave the forest. If possible, leave the area cleaner than when you arrived. The forest and facilities belong to all of us.
- ♦ **Hunting:** Permanent tree stands are not allowed on the County Forest lands. Regulations for hunting blinds are available at the Forestry Department office. All applicable hunting regulations are in effect.
- ♦ **Boat, Kayak and Canoe Landings:** Overnight parking or camping is not permitted at any established landings.
- ♦ **Camping:** Camping is by permit only, and due to increased fire risk, camping is allowed only in designated sites.
- ♦ **Beaches:** Soap, fires, food, beverages and pets are prohibited on established beach areas.
- ♦ **Pets:** Leashed pets are allowed in designated areas of established facilities; maximum leash length is eight feet. Pets are not allowed on beaches or in picnic areas. Hunting dogs are allowed on County Forest lands outside of established facilities, but must be directly monitored or controlled by the owner. Please clean up after your pets.
- ♦ **Areas Closed to Travel:** Trails and roads blocked with berms, rocks or gates, and/or marked with signs, are designated as walk-in only unless otherwise designated for a specific use.

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- ♦ **Areas Open to Motor Vehicle Use:** Trails and roads that are open to motor vehicle use have a wide range of users from large trucks and equipment to ATVs, bicycles and pedestrians. Road and trail conditions vary based on weather and traffic patterns. Please use caution, operate at appropriate speeds, and be aware of others when utilizing Forest trails and roads.
- ♦ **ATVs and Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHM):** ATVs and OHMs are only allowed on designated trails and roads. ATV and OHM use off-trail, or beyond the defined bed of designated trails and roads, is a violation of County ordinance.
- ♦ **Equestrian Use:** Equestrian trails are established in some areas of the Forest. Equestrian use is promoted within these areas and motor vehicle use is limited. Equestrian use is allowed in other areas, but users should be aware of other users within those areas.
- ♦ **Timber Sale Areas:** Please stay away from timber sale areas that are operational. Timber sales are operational when machinery is on site. Equipment operation and tree felling creates many hazards for Forest users. Active timber sale areas are closed to the public for safety reasons. Forest users should remember that income produced by timber sales provides funding for many other uses on the Forest.
- ♦ **Firewood Harvesting:** Harvesting of firewood is by permit only. Firewood permits may be obtained at the Forestry Department office. Firewood areas and maps can be obtained with the permit.
- ♦ **Mobility-Impaired Permits:** Vilas County has an established policy to increase access to public facilities and programs by individuals with mobility disabilities. Qualified individuals may be eligible to operate power-driven mobility devices (PDMD) in areas closed to motor vehicles by permit only. Some areas on the Forest are specified as access areas and other areas may be accessible based upon assessment by the Forestry Department. Please contact the Forestry Department for more information, or to obtain a permit.

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- ♦ **Bicycles:** Bicycles are only allowed on established trails or roadways open to vehicle traffic. Off-road bicycle use is not allowed on the Forest.
- ♦ **Snowmobile Trails:** Snowmobile operation is allowed only on designated trails. Wheeled vehicles are not permitted on designated snowmobile trails from December 1st through March 30th.

**HUNTING, TRAPPING & SHOOTING**

The Vilas County Forest encompasses over 41,000 acres of land with diverse forest age classes. Forest cover types within the forest provides a wide range of wildlife habitat. Forest management has been completed to complement wildlife habitat. Abundant deer, bear, turkey, grouse, squirrel, cottontail rabbit and snowshoe hare can be found on the highlands. Ducks of many species, and geese—including Canadian and Snow—can be found in the wetlands, lakes and streams. Trappers can find fur-bearing animals in the uplands and lowlands. The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department manages and maintains eleven hunter walking trail units with over ninety miles of improved accesses, closed to motor vehicles, for hunters of various mobility levels. The department also manages and maintains a shooting range which is open to the public.

- ♦ **Shooting Range:** The Vilas County Shooting Range is located 5.5 miles north of Eagle River off Highway 45. The range includes eight shooting benches with backstops of various ranges for rifles and handguns, one clay target area for trap and skeet shooting, one fire ring, and parking. Rules for the range are posted at the site. A donation tube is also on the site for users to contribute to the cost of maintenance. Please follow the rules and be safe at the range!

**Vilas County Forest Hunter Map**

*“Hunting for Everyone in the Northwoods”*

**Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department**

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Photo courtesy of Jeremiah Ojeda and Photo courtesy of Michael Schmidt

